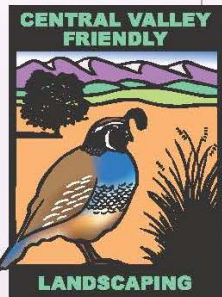


2012 Central Valley Friendly Landscaping Awards

Congratulations to this year's Central Valley Friendly Landscaping Award recipients: Danny and Renn Tako; Steve & Pat Austin, Brad Polzin; Allen & Diane Barnes; Doug & Elizabeth Drynan; and Romy Smit. And thank you to all of our partners who make the program and event possible. — at [Clovis Botanical Garden](#). (The Drynan's and Romy Smit not pictured.)



Every year that passes brings more and more people to the Central Valley. Whether by immigration or by birth, our Valley, including Fresno, continues to grow. Of course, a larger population also means more resources will be consumed – and one of our most precious natural resources, water, is also one of our most limited.



For years, the City of Fresno has worked to promote water conservation. Fortunately, Fresno residents have responded favorably, readily accepting and integrating water conservation into their lives – saving millions of gallons of water in the process.

Because water used for landscaping makes up a large percentage of Fresno water usage, it makes sense to start the conservation efforts in the garden – something the six Central Valley Friendly Landscaping Award (CVFLA) winners were recently honored for doing.

As award recipients, each of the winners showed how Central Valley friendly landscapes could be accomplished in unique and fun ways and still save water:

Steve and Pat Austin – A Master Gardener, Pat attended classes and learned about water-wise gardening before creating a landscape that saves water and attracts wildlife.

Allen and Diane Barnes – The couple came to the Valley from Maine where they were used to a different growing season. Diane made it her mission to learn about landscaping an arid climate – learning right off the bat that removing Bermuda grass would be one of their biggest challenges.

Doug and Elizabeth Drynan – A biologist who wanted to attract wildlife, Doug, with the help of his wife, planted specific types of water-wise plants. Now, over 50 different species of birds fly into their yard.

Brad Polzin – A photographer and visual artist by trade, Brad researched plants that grow well in the Valley with minimal work

and then personally went about putting them into his garden – taking pictures before, during, and after each phase.

Romy Smit – Romy landscaped his yard to create a Mediterranean look with a wide variety of beautiful succulents integrated among other water-wise plants.

Danny and Renn Takao – Owning their own nursery, Danny and Renn set out to use their yard as an experimental site to help find out what new water-wise plants would work in the area.

To qualify for this prestigious award, applicants must take part in the seven required practices and landscape principles:

- Conserve Water and Ensure Water Quality
- Conserve Energy and Air Quality
- Nurture the Soil
- Reduce Garden Waste
- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Select Appropriate Plants
- Create Habitat and Protect Wildlife



Congratulations to all six 2012 Central Valley Friendly Landscaping Award winners!

You can view the award-winning gardens at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/cvlandscape/>

CVFLA Partners include: Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, UC Master Gardener Program, Clovis Botanical Garden and City of Clovis.